



Department of Justice

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SPRINGFIELD BANK ROBBER GETS 188-MONTH SENTENCE

Security guard thwarted robbery

DAYTON – Willie E. White, age 56, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 15 years, 8 months (188 months) imprisonment for attempting to rob a Springfield bank, only to have the robbery thwarted by an off-duty Springfield Police officer working as a security guard.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Timothy P. Murphy, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, and Springfield Police Chief Stephen P. Moody, announced the sentence handed down today by United States District Judge Thomas M. Rose.

On December 29, 2005, White walked into the Huntington National Bank, 1607 Selma Road, in Springfield. White went to the counter, and while brandishing a knife, demanded that a teller empty all the “100s, 50s, and 20s” into a bag.

White told the teller that if she placed a dye pack in with the money, he “would take her with him,” or words to that effect. As the teller placed the money on the counter, but before White physically took the money, he was apprehended by a security officer and taken into custody.

“The security officer apprehended the defendant by first confronting him with his weapon drawn, and, when the defendant then lunged at the officer, the officer struck the defendant with his weapon rather than firing at him,” Lockhart said. “White created a dangerous situation, which the officer alertly and thankfully quelled without any employee or customer of the bank being hurt.”

White has been in custody since his arrest on the date of the robbery. White pled guilty on April 24, 2006 to one count of attempted armed bank robbery. Because of White’s extensive criminal history, he was deemed a “career offender” under the advisory Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation of the agents and officers, and Interim Deputy Criminal Chief Vipal Patel, who prosecuted the case.

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